

School Closings/Weather Days Frequently Asked Questions

Why are weather days being talked about so much lately? S.C. Code of Laws §59-1-425 states that all districts must set aside three days in the annual academic calendar to be used as make-up days. All days missed must be reported to the Office of Federal and State Accountability.

Which days can be used as make-up days for school closings? Each district/school should have three days already in the annual academic calendar to be used as make-up days.

What if my school was closed for four days? The first three missed school days must be made up. The 4th day can either be waived by the local school board, made up by lengthening the school by no less than one hour, or by having school convene on a Saturday.

Must a school make up all days missed due to snow, extreme weather conditions or other disruptions? No. The first three missed school days must be made up. Days 4-6 may be waived by the local school board (with a majority vote) or the school day may be lengthened by no less than one hour or by having Saturday school. If the school day is lengthened by more than an hour, the plan must be submitted to the Office of Federal and State Accountability for approval. Days 7-9 may be brought to the State Board of Education to have the days waived. Day 10 and beyond must be taken to the General Assembly.

How do I waive days 4-6? The local school board of trustees must agree, with a majority vote, to waive missed days 4-6.

How do I waive days 7-9? The local Superintendent, with agreement from the local school board of trustees, must submit a waiver request to the State Board of Education. The request should be emailed to Darlene Prevatt at dprevatt@ed.sc.gov.

How do I waive days 10 and beyond? Contact your state representative.

I want my students to make up all missed school days, not just the 3 in the calendar. We have a scheduled fall break. Can I use those days as make-up days, too? Yes. The local school board of trustees must have an open public hearing and then notify the public that previously scheduled school closings will be used as make-up days.

I have scheduled half-days in my calendar. Can I use them as make-up days? No. Half days are already counted as part of the 180 required days. You must make-up three school days that were not originally identified as a school day.

All three of my make-up days are in the spring semester; can I change the dates to the fall semester instead? Yes, but only if the local board of trustees changes the calendar to reflect the new make-up dates prior to using them as make-up days.

When do I submit my weather days report to the SCDE? Please submit the report as school closings occur.

My make-up days are in the spring. Do I need to wait until the days are made up before I submit the online weather form? No. Please submit the report as school closings occur.

How do I report my school closings? Use this link to access the form:

<https://scde.formstack.com/forms/weatherreporting>

Notwithstanding make-up days and waivers, will the school closings affect seat time requirements?

No. The law (§59-1-425) supersedes the seat time requirements so student attendance will not be jeopardized due to school closings.

What is the deadline to have the weather form completed? All forms must be completed and submitted to SCDE within five (5) days after the school/district office reopens from the event that caused the closure. If there are no school closings or in the EOC e-Learning Pilot Study, the form will still need to be completed. All reports should be sent no later than April 1.

Do charter schools have to make-up school closing days? The SC Code of Laws requires 180 days of instruction. If school closings cause the instructional time to decrease below 180 days, then three days must be made up.

Where can I get a copy of the SCDE memo that was sent to the districts? A copy of the memo is on the State Accountability's Web page at the following url:

<http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/state-accountability/feature-boxes/inclement-weather/school-closings-due-to-extreme-weather-memo/>

Which schools are required to submit a weather report? Every school and district must submit a weather report.

What if I have no school closings due to snow, weather, or other extreme conditions? Every school and district must submit a weather report even if there are no closings to report.

Can I just send Darlene or Theresa an email with my school closing dates? No. Please complete and submit the report at the following website: <https://scde.formstack.com/forms/weatherreporting>.

What will the SCDE do with the information gathered from the weather reports? The law requires the SCDE to report all school closings to the General Assembly no later than July 1 of each year.

Who do I contact if I still have questions? Darlene Prevatt, Team Leader, Office of Federal and State Accountability, (803) 734-3477, dprevatt@ed.sc.gov or Theresa Gregory, Education Associate, Office of Federal and State Accountability, (803) 734-3749, tgregory@ed.sc.gov.